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Listing of Claims

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein a time period of said flashing step ranges from 5 to 15 minutes.
3. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said curing step takes place under ambient conditions, at elevated temperatures, or under ambient conditions followed by elevated temperatures.
4. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 or 3, wherein said curing step takes place at elevated temperatures.
5. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22 further comprising producing a primer coat on said substrate before said step (b).
6. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22 further comprising producing an E-coat followed by a primer coat on said substrate with before said step (b).
7. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said acid functional acrylic copolymer has a GPC weight average molecular weight ranging from 20,000 to 100,000 and a polydispersity ranging from 1.05 to 10.0.
8. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said acid functional acrylic copolymer has Tg ranging from -5°C to + 100°C.
9. (canceled).

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10. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said monomer mixture comprises 5 percent to 40 percent based on total weight of the acid functional acrylic copolymer of said functional (meth)acrylate monomers.

11. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said functional (meth)acrylate monomer is provided with one or more crosslinkable groups selected from the group consisting of a primary hydroxyl, secondary hydroxyl and a combination thereof.

12. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said crosslinking component comprises a polyisocyanate, melamine or a combination thereof.

13. (previously presented): The process of claim 12 wherein a ratio of equivalents of isocyanate functionalities on said polyisocyanate per equivalents of the functional groups on said acid functional acrylic copolymer ranges from 0.5/1 to 3.0/1.

14. (previously presented): The process of claim 12 comprising 0.1 weight percent to 40 weight percent of said melamine, wherein said percentages are based on total weight of composition solids.

15. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 further comprising accelerating said (e) step by adding a catalytically active amount of a catalyst to said coating composition.

16. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22 further comprising accelerating said (e) step by adding a catalytically active amount of an acid catalyst to said clearcoat composition.

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17. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22 wherein said coating composition comprises pigment.

18. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22, wherein said coating composition is formulated as an automotive OEM composition.

19. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22, wherein said coating composition is formulated as an automotive refinish composition.

20. (currently amended) The process of claim [[1]] 22, 17, 18 or 19 wherein said substrate is an automotive body.

21. (currently amended): The process of claim [[1]] 22, 17, 18 or 19 wherein said coating composition is formulated as a low VOC coating composition comprising a solvent ranging of from 0.1 kilograms (1.0 pounds per gallon) to 0.72 kilograms (6.0 pounds per gallon) per liter of said coating composition.

22. (currently amended): A process for producing a multi-coat system on a substrate comprising:

(a) mixing a cross-linkable component of a coating composition with a crosslinking component of said coating composition to form a pot-mix, said crosslinkable component comprising an acid functional acrylic copolymer polymerized from a monomer mixture, and 0.2 weight percent to 2 weight percent of amorphous silica based on total weight of the crosslinkable component, wherein said monomer mixture consists essentially of 2 weight percent to 12 weight percent of carboxylic acid group containing monomer based on total weight of the acid functional acrylic copolymer, functional (meth)acrylate monomer, alkyl (meth)acrylate, and styrene wherein carboxylic acid group containing monomer consists essentially of (meth)acrylic acid, crotonic acid, oleic acid, cinnamic acid, glutaconic acid, muconic acid, undecylenic acid, itaconic acid, crotonic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, or a combination thereof;

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- (b) applying a layer of said pot-mix over said substrate;
- (c) flashing said layer of said pot-mix into a strike-in resistant layer;
- (d) applying a layer of a clearcoat composition over said strike-in resistant layer to form a multi-layer system on said substrate; and
- (e) curing said multi-layer system into said multi-coat system.

23. (previously presented): The process of claim 22, wherein said acid functional acrylic copolymer has a GPC weight average molecular weight ranging from 15,000 to 100,000.

24. (previously presented): The process of claim 23, wherein said acid functional acrylic copolymer has a GPC weight average molecular weight ranging from 20,000 to 100,000.